

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

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R 230910Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883

INFO: RHEGGTN/AEC GERMANTOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 4465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA,PARM, IT, SP, SW

SUBJ: ITALIAN CANDIDACY FOR DESIGNATED SEAT

GENEVA FOR USDEL REVCON

REF: A) IAEA VIENNA 4077; B) IAEA VIENNA 4441; C) IAEA VIENNA 4446

1. MISSION IS DEEPLY CONCERNED, AS ARE SOME OTHER MISSIONS  
HERE, THAT SERIOUS AND FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES COULD  
RESULT IF ISSUE OF DISPUTED DESIGNATED BOARD SEAT IS  
BROUGHT TO A VOTE AT JUNE BOARD. WHAT CONCERNS US IS  
NOT WHICH STATE MIGHT WIN DESIGNATION BUT FACT THAT DESIG-  
NATION OF "MOST ADVANCED" BY VOTING INSTEAD OF BY CON-  
SENSUS, WHICH HAS THUS FAR BEEN THE METHOD OF DESIGNATION,  
WOULD IGNORE OBJECTIVE BASIS (HOWEVER ILL-DEFINED)  
IMPLIED IN IAEA STATUTE AS UNDERLYING RATIONALE FOR  
DESIGNATION AND CONVERT BOARD'S FUNCTION PURSUANT TO  
ART. VI A.1. TO A POPULARITY CONTEST. SHOULD THIS OCCUR,  
NO MEMBER NOW AMONG THE NINE COULD FEEL SECURE FROM  
A CHALLENGE, REGARDLESS OF ITS MERITS, MOTIVATED BY  
POLITICAL FACTORS. IT FOLLOWS THAT IN LONG RUN,  
ABILITY OF BOARD TO EXERCISE ITS STATUTORY RIGHT TO  
DETERMINE ITS NINE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES WOULD BE  
SERIOUSLY HAMPERED AND CONTINUITY AND STABILITY PROVIDED  
TO BOARD PROCEEDINGS BY EXISTENCE OF DESIGNATED CATEGORY  
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WOULD BE WEAKENED. WE WOULD EXPECT FROM THIS AN INCREAS-

ING DEGREE OF POLITICIZATION IN AGENCY MATTERS.

2. SWEDEN AND SPAIN CORRECTLY ARGUE THAT ART. VI A.1. OBLIGES BOARD TO DESIGNATE EACH YEAR NINE "MOST ADVANCED" STATES AND THAT THERE IS THUS NO GUARANTEE OF PERMANENCY IN THIS STATUS. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR TO US THAT THE DESIGNATION PROCESS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGING SITUATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT HERE IS MANNER IN WHICH PROCEDURE IS ADAPTED TO CHANGE.

3. THERE IS SOME MERIT IN IDEA, PROPOSED BY SOME, OF CALLING ON DISINTERESTED PANEL TO FORMULATE LIST OF CRITERIA, WHICH WOULD BE BINDING ON BOARD IN DESIGNATION PROCESS, BUT WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS APPROACH. CRITERIA THEMSELVES WOULD TEND TO BECOME OBSOLETE AS TECHNOLOGY PROGRESSES. MOREOVER, THIS APPROACH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ELIMINATE ANNUAL SQUABBLING AND CONSEQUENT RISK OF PROCESS DEGENERATING INTO POLITICAL CONTEST.

4. IN THE PAST, BOARD HAS RESPONDED IN TWO WAYS TO NEED FOR ACCOMMODATION TO CHANGE. REVISION OF ART. VI TWO YEARS AGO, EXPANDING BOARD FROM 25 TO 34 MEMBERS, WAS EFFECTED AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF NEGOTIATION AND WE DO NOT WELCOME THOUGHT OF AN ATTEMPT AT A NEW REVISION. THE OTHER APPROACH HAS BEEN TO SEEK A PRAGMATIC SOLUTION TO POLITICAL PROBLEM AS WAS NOTABLY THE CASE YEARS AGO WHEN, IN ORDER TO SOLVE RIVALRY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL FOR DESIGNATED SEAT, INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT WAS AGREED UPON WHEREBY EACH ROTATED IN DESIGNATED SEAT, OCCUPYING AN ELECTED SEAT IN "OFF YEARS", WHILE THIS ARRANGMENT MAY EVENTUALLY BE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED BY A THIRD LA STATE, IT HAS THUS FAR SERVED A VALUABLE PURPOSE IN PREVENTING WRANGLING OVER WHICH STATE SHOULD BE ACCORDED PRESTIGE OF "DESIGNATED" SEAT.

5. MISSION BELIEVES SAME FORMULA OF ROTATION CAN AND SHOULD BE APPLIED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN JUNE. SHOULD ITALY YIELD TO SWEDEN THIS YEAR AS "DESIGNATED" BOARD MEMBER, ROTATIONAL PATTERN CAN EASILY BE ESTABLISHED WHEREBY  
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ALL THREE PARTIES IN DISPUTE COULD REMAIN ON BOARD, IN EFFECT, IN PERPETUITY, NOTWITHSTANDING AMB. CAGIATI'S CLAIM THAT ROTATION WOULD DEPRIVE ITALY OF A BOARD SEAT TWO YEARS OUT OF SIX. THIS MIGHT PRESENT PROBLEMS TO SMALLER STATES IN WE GROUP WHICH WOULD THUS BE LEFT WITH ONLY TWO ELECTED SEATS TO SHARE AMONG THEM. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED WITHIN GROUP.

6. WITH ALL THREE PARTIES DISTRIBUTING PAPERS (MISSION HAS NOT YET SEEN SPANISH PAPER) DOCUMENTING HIGH LEVELS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, IT SEEMS TO MISSION THAT ITALY WOULD BE WISE TO ACCEPT AS IN ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS A ROTATIONAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE REAL NEEDS OF ALL CONCERNED AND WHICH REPRESENTS THE ONLY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO A DIVISIVE AND DAMAGING BOARD VOTE WHICH CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO RECUR AT FUTURE BOARDS. MATTER CAN NO LONGER SIMPLY BE LEFT TO THE GROUP TO SOLVE, FOR IT HAS CONCEDED FAILURE AND IF MATTERS ARE LEFT TO STAND, A VOTE SEEMS CERTAIN. WE CANNOT COUNT THIS YEAR ON CHAIRMAN BEING ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUE WITH FINESSE AS IN PAST. CURRENT CHAIRMAN IS BULGARIAN RESEDENT IN SOFIA WHO PLANS ARRIVE VIENNA ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE BOARD MEETING, AND IN ANY CASE, AMB. PETRI HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT SWEDEN WILL THIS YEAR NOT MERELY MAKE STATEMENT FOR RECORD BUT WILL CALL FOR VOTE.

7. ROTATION FORMULA IS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS USG COMMITMENTS TO ITALY AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, I.E., FULL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUOUS RPT CONTINUOUS SEAT. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EXTREMELY TIGHT TIME FACTOR, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT. SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUGGESTING TO ITALIANS THAT THEY RECONSIDER ROTATION PROPOSAL AS BEING IN THEIR OWN AND IN IAEA'S BEST INTEREST, WHICH WOULD AVOID UNNECESSARY AND UNFORTUNATE CONFLICT AMONG LEADING AGENCY MEMBERS. LEAHY

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